

## **The Bay Delta by the Numbers**

- Largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas with ~800 species flora & fauna.
- The watershed comprises 40% of CA's surface area (153,000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- Most of the rain and snow falls in California on just 5-15 days/year.
- 75% of the precipitation occurs in N. CA while 80% of the demand exists in S. CA.
- 50% of CA's runoff flows toward the Delta.
- The federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) form the backbone of CA's water supply infrastructure and rely on the Bay Delta ecosystem.
- Up to 65% of the freshwater flowing to the Delta is diverted to consumptive uses (~7.5 million acre feet, MAF).
- The snow-capped Sierra Nevada serves as CA's best water storage "reservoir" because it slowly releases ~15 MAF during the warm spring and summer seasons.
- 60% of CA's "developed" water supply originating as Sierra snowpack could diminish by 80% by the year 2100 due to climate change.
- Net use of "developed water": 62% agriculture; 16% municipal; 22% environmental.
- Drinking water for 27 million people.
- Irrigation water for 3 million acres of farmland that produces 50% of the USA's fruits & vegetables, 20% of the Nation's milk, and a \$27 billion agricultural sector (2% of CA's economy).
- The Regional Water Board (Central Valley) has listed the waters of the Delta as impaired for heavy metals, pesticides, and invasive species per CWA §303(d).
- 90 native and introduced species of fish occur in the Delta; populations of all the native fish are in decline and several have been federally-listed as threatened or endangered.
- The islands of the Western Delta have subsided by up to ~25 feet due to conversion to farming and peat oxidation, and this has made the resulting levees vulnerable to collapse.
- The San Joaquin Valley floor has subsided by up to ~30 feet due to groundwater overdraft, and this represents a permanent loss of aquifer storage capacity.
- In 2012, EPA Region 9 issued a 7-point Bay Delta Action Plan focused on improving

water quality and restoring aquatic resources.